

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all previous claim listings and versions.

1. (Currently Amended) An adjustable strap assembly for securing a boot to a binding comprising:
 - a lateral strap having a first end for connection to a lateral side of the binding and having a second end;
 - an instep pad that includes a connection device positioned on a first distal end for adjustable connection to the second end of the lateral strap, and having an engagement device that includes a plurality of teeth positioned on a raised ramp area adjacent a second distal end;
 - a medial strap having a first end for connection to a medial side of the binding and having a second end, the medial strap including an elongated slot along a portion of its length that is positioned a predetermined distance from the second end and having plurality of teeth on a lower surface for mating with the teeth of the engagement device; and
 - an adjustable retention assembly associated with the elongated slot, the retention assembly for releasably securing the medial strap to the instep pad which permits the length of the strap assembly to be selectively adjustable by a user.

Cancel claims 2 and 3.

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim [[3]] 1 wherein the plurality of teeth of the medial strap begin at the second end of the medial strap and end a predetermined distance from the second end of the medial strap.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the retention assembly comprises a screw and a T-nut.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the retention assembly further comprises a strap retaining cover.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the connection device is a ratchet buckle.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the first end of the lateral strap is connected to a lateral sidewall of the binding, and wherein the first end of the medial strap is connected to a medial sidewall of the binding.

9. (Currently Amended) A binding assembly for connecting a boot to a snowboard comprising:

- a binding base securable to the snowboard which includes at least a medial sidewall and a lateral sidewall;

- a toe strap configuration connected on a first side to the lateral sidewall in a toe area of the binding base and on a second side to the medial sidewall in the toe area; and

- an instep strap assembly comprising:

- a lateral strap having a first end for connection to a lateral side of the binding and having a second end;

- an instep pad that includes a connection device positioned on a first distal end for adjustable connection to the second end of the lateral strap, and having an engagement device that includes a plurality of teeth positioned on a raised ramp area adjacent a second distal end;

- a medial strap having a first end for connection to a medial side of the binding and having a second end, the medial strap including an elongated slot along its length that is positioned a predetermined distance from the second end and having a plurality of teeth for mating with the teeth of the of the engagement device ~~and has a predetermined size;~~ and

- an adjustable retention assembly associated with the elongated slot, the retention assembly for releasably securing the medial strap to the instep pad to permit the length of the instep strap assembly to be selectively adjustable by a user.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the first end of the lateral strap is connected to a lateral sidewall of the binding, and wherein the first end of the medial strap is connected to a medial sidewall of the binding.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9 further comprising a highback support connected to the binding base.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the first the first end of the lateral strap and the first end of the medial strap are connected on opposite sides of a highback support heel cup.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the retention assembly comprises a screw and a T-nut.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the retention assembly further comprises a strap retaining cover.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the toe strap configuration includes a forefoot lateral strap, a forefoot pad that includes a connection device positioned on a first distal end for adjustable connection to the lateral strap, and having an engagement device positioned on a raised ramp area adjacent a second distal end, a forefoot medial strap having a first end for connection to a medial side of the binding and having a second end, and an adjustable forefoot retention assembly.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the forefoot medial strap includes an elongated slot along its length, and the forefoot retention assembly is associated with the elongated slot.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the forefoot retention assembly comprises a screw and a T-nut.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17 wherein the forefoot retention assembly further comprises a strap retaining cover.